



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2015**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Martin Jaffe - UIC, Anne McKibben – Elevate Energy, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Deb Stone (via phone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Mike Prusilla (for Patricia Werner) – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Ed Collins – MCCD, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Mike Sullivan – Kane / Kendall Council of Mayors, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Nancy Williamson – IDNR

Staff Present: Jason Navota, Holly Hudson, Erin Aleman, Nora Beck

Others Present: Mike Klemens – WCGL, Marcella Bondie-Keenan– Elevate Energy

1.0 Call to Order

Committee co-chair, Sean Wiedel, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Nora Beck made one announcement. At the November meeting, we anticipated updating the committee on the work being done for the next Regional Plan in January. The timeline has shifted and we anticipate bringing this topic back to the committee in February.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 5 meeting was made by Martin Jaffe, seconded by Joe Schuessler, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Regional Infrastructure Fund– Erin Aleman, CMAP Staff

In April, the Board gave direction to develop a strategy to address agency and regional infrastructure funding issues as discussed as part of this year's strategic planning session. Erin Aleman passed around a [handout](#) and reviewed the main reasons for creating an infrastructure fund, the types of projects that could be supported with this new funding, and the process going forward to build the coalition for establishing the fund. ENR

committee members asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- **RTA Relationship:** If the fund is funded through a sales tax, a taxing body would need to collect the tax revenue. Instead of establishing a new taxing body, the proposal would use the existing RTA collection mechanism. Question about RTA's authority to fund water and open space projects. Legally, this could be done by the RTA with a one-time vote to pass to CMAP.
- **Existing Funding Sources and Leveraging:** Question of whether it would be better to add more funds to existing grant and loan programs, like the State Revolving Loan Funds. Committee discussed the value of being able to use the new funding to leverage existing grant programs; for example, being able to support the local match to federal funding sources. FEMA funds also require a 25% match.
- **Performance Criteria for Project Selection:** Jack Darin explained that he participated in a focus group meeting about the funding proposal, where a longer [factsheet](#) provided more detail about the performance criteria; his take was that the fund would be an implementation fund for GO TO 2040. Darin expressed interest in participating in the development of the criteria to select projects. Aleman explained that if the proposal does come to fruition, CMAP plans to engage the ENR committee to help establish performance criteria.

5.0 Watershed Planning – Holly Hudson, CMAP Staff

CMAP has been involved in the development of numerous watershed plans over the past several years. Most recently completed are the 9 Lakes Watershed-Based Plan and an update to the Thorn Creek Watershed-Based Plan. Holly Hudson provided an update on these plans as well as the ongoing planning efforts in the Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Hudson briefly reviewed CMAP's involvement with watershed planning efforts, as well as the benefits, philosophy, and minimum elements behind watershed planning. Hudson then provided more information about three plans:

- **Thorn Creek Watershed-Based Plan.** Originally completed in 2005 with 33 watershed management recommendations composed of a combination of policy and planning, structural, and non-structural BMPs. In 2014, a Plan Addendum was completed with a more quantitative analysis addresses the most common structural BMPs, including pollutant load reduction estimates and planning-level implementation cost estimates. Envisioning BMPs implemented for 20% of the watershed area will cost approximately \$265 million.
- **9 Lakes Watershed-Based Plan.** Started as a TMDL Implementation plan, which ultimately fell through, this plan focuses on 9 lakes and 14 subunits. Pollutant load modeling was done for the 14 subunits along with BMP estimated pollutant load reductions. 200 site-specific BMPs for a total cost of \$70 million.
- **Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed Planning.** Located in NE McHenry County, this watershed plan will focus on Boone Creek which had a previous plan developed in 2003, with Dutch Creek as they both feed into common areas of the Fox River. Anticipated to be a two year planning process, 2014-2015; more information can be found on the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership webpage.

Hudson went on to review Section 319 grants; which can be used to both develop and implement watershed plans. IEPA recognizes 51 basins in Illinois and each year, 8-11 basins are considered priority for planning and two years later, these same basins are

considered a priority for implementation. For more information on the priority watersheds, click [here](#). Hudson also explained that stormwater quality and treatment BMP projects are now eligible for low-interest loans through the [Illinois Clean Water Initiative](#). ENR committee members asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- **Thorn Creek and the Crawford-Countryside Sanitary District.** This area is currently on septic, was interested in coming into MWRD, but considered too expensive. Joe Schuessler wondered if the sanitary district came up during the watershed planning process, Hudson to follow up.
- **IEPA Priority Watersheds and CMAP projects.** Martin Jaffe asked if there was an attempt to line up the CMAP LTA projects to work well with IEPAs priorities. Not exactly, as LTA projects cover a range of topics. But IEPA and CMAP work together to determine watershed planning projects.
- **Coordination with potential Disaster and Resiliency Funds.** Jon Grosshans asked how these new streams of funding could help implement watershed planning projects. Nora Beck responded that the next agenda item will touch on a coordination effort.
- **Outstanding Resource Designation.** Jack Darin asked if the watershed plans touched on the outstanding resource designation, which would add additional protection to prevent any lowering of water quality. Hudson explained that stakeholders in the Boone-Dutch Creek watershed planning process have expressed interest in the designation.

6.0 Calumet Stormwater Collaborative – Nora Beck, CMAP Staff

The Calumet Stormwater Collaborative, convened by the [Metropolitan Planning Council](#) with funding from The Chicago Community Trust, was formed to pursue the [Millennium Reserve](#) priority to improve stormwater management through investments in and coordination of green infrastructure solutions. CMAP is an active member of the collaborative and Nora Beck, using a [powerpoint presentation](#), provided an overview of the collaborative, what challenges they are seeking to address, and the main elements of the group's work plan for the coming year which includes 9 main action steps to build knowledge and capacity, as well as near-term opportunities for implementation. In addition, Beck briefly described two recent funding opportunities the collaborative has been engaged in – submitting ideas to Cook County's CDBG-Disaster Relief proposal and submitting a grant to IEPA to focus IGIG funding to the Calumet with projects based on the collaborative's workplan. Coordinating funding efforts, including the National Disaster Resilience Competition and the CDBG Disaster Relief funds are a large component of the collaborative's work.

8.0 Public Comment

No public comments.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. Committee members requested information on the new Governor's environment and infrastructure agendas. CMAP staff will send information to the committee once those are available. CMAP has been involved with discussions relating to infrastructure.

10.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:35 am, made by Sean Wiedel, seconded by Anne McKibben and with all in favor, carried.